

May 11, 2011

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HELICOPTER COMMITTEE

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Helicopter Committee convened in a regular session on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 3:00pm in the General Aviation Center meeting room.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Arteaga, Carey, Hamilton, Jones, Moran, Root, Elmore,

Absent: Jones, Donnellan

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian

Committee members Jones and Donnellan were granted excused absences.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Committee member Root led the pledge of allegiance.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian verified the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Committee member Elmore moved to approve the posting of the agenda. A voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian explained that the minutes of the April 21, 2011 Helicopter Committee meeting were not ready and would be presented at the next meeting.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

6A. **FAA Letter of April 15, 2011 – Sub Committee Report**

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian introduced the action items. He briefly updated those in attendance that a sub-committee had been formed at the April 21, 2011 meeting to respond to the FAA's letter of April 15, 2011. The sub-committee includes Committee members Elmore, Root and Carey. The sub-committee met May 3, 2011.

Committee member Elmore explained that the sub-committee looked at the FAA's concerns listed in the letter, including fixed wing and helicopter traffic, extension of South Crenshaw route outside the Class D airspace, noise profile and noise screening, and how the procedures would be evaluated after 6 months. Elmore stated the sub-committee agreed to draft a letter addressing these concerns and that the sub-committee would review.

Committee member Elmore further discussed the strategy of the letter and the reasoning behind it. He addressed the letter's concerns compared to the City's noise abatement procedures. He stated that a noise profile for Crenshaw and Southeast route would be conducted, and categorical exclusions would be requested based on FAA regulations. The FAA letter stated that routes are not commonly charted outside of Class D airspace. Committee member Elmore cited several other examples of routes outside of the Class D airspace. The requested change of the Crenshaw route outside of Class D is approx. 1/10 of a mile. Committee member Elmore also stated that vendors would be sought to conduct the noise modeling analysis as requested by the FAA.

John Bailey, Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, requested clarification regarding the term "South Downwind". Committee member Elmore explained the term, and Committee member Carey explained that it was not a published traffic pattern for Noise Abatement.

Comments were made that while the south traffic pattern was not a published noise abatement procedure, it is used frequently by pilots when cleared by the FAA tower.

Discussion continued regarding traffic patterns on the north and south side of the Airport.

Committee member Arteaga stated that the FAA Tower tries to keep traffic on the north side, but if saturated, will direct traffic to the south.

Committee member Elmore stated that routes are designed to anticipate 80% of traffic, with FAA Towers controlling the other 20%.

Dennis McLean, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, stated that he would volunteer in the event that a consultant is retained for noise modeling, and that RPV would reasonably share the cost. He also volunteered Williams Aviation to look over the response to the FAA if the Committee chooses.

6B. Discussion of VFR Fixed Point on Straight Out Departure

The Committee discussed whether or not fixed wing routes should be discussed as it may be out of the purview of the Committee.

Committee member Arteaga stated that he thought it was not the scope of the Committee.

Facility Manager Megerdichian stated that the City Council directed the Committee to address any fixed wing routes in relation to the proposed changes.

Discussion continued regarding the fixed wing routes and the role the Committee should play in recommending any changes.

Committee member Hamilton stated that during the April meeting, a graphic was shown and showed a considerable amount of traffic on the south pattern.

Committee member Elmore showed a graphic with flights around Torrance Airport during a four day time period.

The Committee continued to discuss fixed wing routes and how they should mix with the helicopter routes. Track data that was requested and obtained by the FAA was also displayed.

6C. Gravel Pit Hot Spot

Facility Manager Megerdichian introduced the item as a topic brought up at the previous meeting that the Committee wanted to discuss.

Committee member Carey clarified that the gravel pit could be a hot spot as it has inbound and outbound traffic and could potentially be a conflict.

Committee member Carey stated that this information was not going to be on the helicopter chart and that it may be another five years until it is published again. However, he said it could be less than five years due to other factors.

The gravel pit hot spot would have to be identified on the noise abatement procedures, not the helicopter charts.

Committee member Carey stated that there were letters sent to the FAA opposing the routes, while also stating that the meetings were not open to the public.

Committee member Carey stated that he was resigning from the Committee.

7. ORALS

Karen K. Fitch stated that she appreciated what the Committee has done

John Bailey stated that he thought all Committee meetings were in compliance with the Brown Act. He thanked Mr. Carey for his expertise in guiding the Committee and for showing support for the residents.

Bill Tymczyszyn re-read a letter that went to FAA opposing the proposed routes, and did not agree that the letter stated meetings were not open to the public. He commented that the Vincent Thomas Bridge is a hot spot as well as the PCH route due to altitude changes. He thanked Mr. Carey for his service on the Committee.

Dennis McLean thanked Mr. Carey on behalf of City of RPV.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian moved to adjourn to June 21 or June 29, 2011 at 6:30pm. The Committee voted to adjourn to June 21, 2011. A voice vote reflected unanimous approval.